

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NOS. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E ORDER NO. 2021-36-H

MARCH 26, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's 2021 Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A)

Duke Energy Progress, LLC's 2021 Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A)

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Request of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC to hold the procedural deadlines in these proceedings in abeyance and to allow the interested parties to these dockets to propose a procedural schedule no later than April 30, 2021.

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER'S ACTION:

On March 10, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 2021-166 setting forth the procedural schedule in the above-referenced matters, which requires Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("DEC") and Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP," and together with DEC, the "Companies") to file an application on April 19, 2021 and sets the merits hearing for August 2, 2021.

Instead of filing a Motion for Reconsideration, Duke filed, on March 26, 2021, a request to hold these matters in abeyance and for an opportunity to present its own schedule no later than April 30, 2021, based on the fact that the matter is undergoing an independent technical review. This review, according to Duke, is expected to take approximately four months to complete. A report is expected in July 2021. Duke notes that initial meetings took place in March 2021, with a stakeholder information meeting being held on the technical review process on March 19, 2021.

Duke states that it has consulted with counsel for the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), Carolinas Clean Energy Business Association ("CCEBA"), and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy/South Carolina Coastal Conservation League ("SACE/CCL"), and these interested parties (the Companies anticipate CCEBA and SACE/CCL will be parties to these dockets) and they do not oppose this request.

This request from Duke raises many questions, however. Accordingly, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”) will hold virtual oral arguments on this matter on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 1:00 PM, so that Duke and other interested parties may further address the issues raised in the March 26, 2021 request that was filed with this Commission.

This ends the Chief Hearing Officer’s Directive.